

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A conduit assembly for attachment to a mechanical circulatory device, the conduit assembly comprising:
 - a conduit for conducting blood between a patient and the mechanical circulatory device, the conduit including a first curved conduit and a second curved conduit coupled together so as to define a substantially continuous flow path;
 - a first coupling for attaching a first end of the first curved conduit to the mechanical circulatory device, the first coupling being movable between a rotatable position wherein the first curved conduit is rotatable relative to the mechanical circulatory device, and a fixed position wherein the first curved conduit is fixedly positioned relative to the mechanical circulatory device; and
 - a second coupling for attaching a second end of the first curved conduit to a first end of the second curved conduit, the second coupling being movable between a rotatable position wherein the second curved conduit is rotatable relative to the first curved conduit, and a fixed position wherein the second curved conduit is fixedly positioned relative to the first curved conduit;

wherein the first and second curved conduits are rigid so as to maintain a predetermined orientation when said first coupling and said second coupling are disposed in the fixed positions.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A conduit assembly according to claim 1, wherein the conduit is circular in cross-section.

4. (Previously Presented) A conduit assembly according to claim 1, wherein the conduit is formed from titanium.

5. (Original) A conduit assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first coupling comprises a first rotatable nut, the first rotatable nut being movable between a rotatable position wherein the first curved conduit is rotatable relative to the mechanical circulatory device, and a fixed position wherein the first curved conduit is fixed relative to the mechanical circulatory device.

6. (Original) A conduit assembly according to claim 5, wherein the first rotatable nut engages a correspondingly threaded inflow port on the mechanical circulatory device.

7. (Original) A conduit assembly according to claim 5, wherein the second coupling comprises a second rotatable nut, the second rotatable nut being movable between a rotatable position wherein the second curved conduit is rotatable relative to the first curved conduit, and a fixed position wherein the second curved conduit is fixed relative to the first curved conduit.

8. (Original) A conduit assembly according to claim 7, wherein the second rotatable nut engages the second end of the first curved conduit, the second end of the first curved conduit being correspondingly threaded.

9. (Original) A conduit assembly according to claim 8, wherein the second rotatable nut includes a lip for engaging the first end of the second curved conduit, the first end of the second curved conduit including a flange.

10. (Previously Presented) A conduit assembly according to claim 1, wherein said conduit defines a conduit for conducting blood between a patient and a ventricular assist device.

11. (Previously Presented) A conduit assembly according to claim 10, wherein said conduit defines a conduit for conducting blood between a patient and a left ventricular assist device.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus in a patient, the apparatus comprising a mechanical circulatory device and a conduit assembly for attachment to the mechanical circulatory device, the conduit assembly including a first rigid conduit and a second rigid conduit; the method comprising the steps of:

attaching one end of the first rigid conduit to the mechanical circulatory device with a first coupling in a rotatable position;

positioning the mechanical circulatory device relative to the patient;

rotating the first rigid conduit until a desired position of the first conduit relative to the patient is achieved;

moving the first coupling to a fixed position so as to maintain a predetermined orientation of the first rigid conduit when the first coupling is disposed in the fixed position;

attaching another end of the first rigid conduit to the second rigid conduit with a second coupling in a rotatable position;

positioning the mechanical circulatory device relative to the patient;

rotating the second rigid conduit until a desired position of the second rigid conduit relative to the patient is achieved; and

moving the second coupling to a fixed position so as to maintain a predetermined orientation of the second rigid conduit when the second coupling is disposed in the fixed position.

13. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the first rigid conduit and the second rigid conduit are circular in cross-section.

14. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the first rigid conduit and the second rigid conduit are formed from titanium.

15. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the first coupling comprises a first rotatable nut, the first rotatable

nut being movable between a rotatable position wherein the first rigid conduit is rotatable relative to the mechanical circulatory device, and a fixed position wherein the first rigid conduit is fixed relative to the mechanical circulatory device.

16. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the first rotatable nut engages a correspondingly threaded inflow port on the mechanical circulatory device.

17. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the second coupling comprises a second rotatable nut, the second rotatable nut being movable between a rotatable position wherein the second rigid conduit is rotatable relative to the first rigid conduit, and a fixed position wherein the second rigid conduit is fixed relative to the first rigid conduit.

18. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the second rotatable nut engages the second end of the first rigid conduit, the second end of the first rigid conduit being correspondingly threaded.

19. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the second rotatable nut includes a lip for engaging the first end of the second rigid conduit, the first end of the second rigid conduit including a flange.

20. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the conduit defines a conduit for conducting blood between a patient and a ventricular assist device.

21. (New) A method for implanting a circulatory apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said conduit defines a conduit for conducting blood between a patient and a left ventricular assist device.

22. (New) A conduit assembly according to claim 1, wherein said conduit defines a predetermined diameter, thereby maintaining the substantially continuous flow path between the first curved conduit and the second curved conduit.